

Appl. No. 09/914,526  
Atty. Docket No. 7472  
Amdt. dated 10/03/03  
Reply to Office Action of 12/10/2003  
Customer No. 27752

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A detergent particle ~~characterized by~~ comprising:
  - i) a particle core ~~characterized by~~ comprising a detergent active material, said core being an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices, and
  - ii) a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer ~~characterized by~~ comprising a water soluble coating material;wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10%.
2. (original) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said coating material is a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material.
3. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said water soluble non-hydrating material is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonate salts, alkali metal sulfate salts, and mixtures thereof.
4. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is the double salt  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4:\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  in a weight ratio of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  of from about 80:20 to about 20:80.
5. (currently amended) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the weight ratio of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  to  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  ~~of is~~ is from about 75:25 to about 60:40.
6. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said particle coating layer further includes a detergent adjunct material.
7. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 6 wherein said detergent adjunct material is selected from the group consisting of brighteners, pigments, chelants, nonionic surfactants, pH control ingredients, detergency co-builders and mixtures thereof.

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8. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said detergent active in said particle core is selected from the group consisting of bleaching agents, enzymes and mixtures thereof.
9. (currently amended) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 1 & wherein said detergent active material in said particle core comprises a blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients.
10. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients is comprises a blend of anionic surfactants and alkali metal carbonates.
11. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 10 wherein said blend further comprises a detergent builder material.
12. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 20%.
13. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 30%.
14. (currently amended) A detergent composition ~~characterized by~~ comprising:
  - a) from 1% to 99% of a detergent particle according to Claim 1 ~~having a particle core characterized by a detergent active material, and a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer providing a surface area reduction of at least about 10%; and~~
  - b) the balance detergent adjunct ingredients.

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